

Message Text

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51 41

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-11 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 SY-10

USSS-00 AID-20 RSR-01 /170 W
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R 041319Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9651

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6926

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, ICAO, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTIONS TO ICAO VOTE

1. ISRAELI PUBLIC REACTIONS TO ICAO RESOLUTION AUG 30 CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR ITS INTERCEPTION OF LEBANESE AIRLINE HAVE BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL AND LARGELY PREDICTABLE. PRIMIN MEIR ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS HAS PUBLICLY LASHED OUT AT ICAO FOR ITS "HYPOCRISY" AT CONDEMNING ISRAEL WHILE IGNORING ACTIONS OF ARAB TERRIROSTS AND THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORT THEM. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MRS MEIR IN REMARKS AUG 30 BEFORE UJA DELEGATES STATED ICAO CENSURE OF ISRAEL CONSTITUTED "ACME OF CYNICISM AND HYPOCRISY" AND THAT RESOLUTIONS OF THIS KIND COULD NOT BE STRONGER ENCOURAGEMENT FOR AIR PIRACY AND TERRORISM. MRS MEIR ALSO SAID THAT SHE HAD PERSONALLY APPROVED INTERCEPTION OF LEBANESE AIRCRAFT BECAUSE LEBANON HAD BECOME CENTER OF TERRORISM AND HABASH WAS WORST OF THE TERRORISTS. SPEAKING BEFORE POLITICAL MEETING AUG 31, MRS MEIR'S COMMENTS ON ICAO RES WERE "WHAT A SHAME, WHAT HYPOCRISY, WHAT A LIE, WHAT INJUSTICE." SHE CONTINUED THAT IN LIGHT OF INTERNA-
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TIONAL COMMUNITY'S FAILURE TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF ARAB

TERRORIS., ISRAEL HAD NO CHOICE BUT FIGHT TERROR "WHETHER
IN ISRAEL OR ABROAD."

2. EDITORIAL REACTION TO ICAO CONDEMNATION HAS ALSO
EMPHASIZED ONE-SIDED THEME. DAVAR AUG 31 SAID THAT ICAO
RES WAS ASUNJUST AS IT WAS PREDICATABLE. OTHER
EDITORIALS STATED THAT RES AND DEBATE PRECEDING IT
WERE CHARACTERISTIC OF HYPOCRISY OF INTERNATIONAL INSITU-
TIONS IN THEIR CONSTANT ONE-SIDED CONDEMNATIONS OF ISRAEL.
ONLY HAARETZ COMMENTED ON ISRAEL'S OVERWHELMING
ISOLATION AT ROME STATING THAT WHILE ICAO CONDEMNATION
WAS UNJUST, ISRAEL WOULD DO WELL TO HEED ITS POLITICAL
LESSON.

3. COMMENT: ISRAELIS ARE RELIEVED TO HAVE ICAO CONSIDERA-
TION OF LEBANESE COMPLAINT BEHIND THEM, ESPECIALLY SINCE
NO SANCTIONS WERE ENACTED AGAINST ISRAEL. ANGRY PUBLIC
REACTION TO ICAO RES HAS BEEN SIMILAR TO REACTIONS
ON OCCASION OF PREVIOUS CONDEMNATIONS OF ISRAEL BY
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DESPITE FACT THAT ISRAELI PRESS
AND PUBLIC HAD BEEN QUESTIONING WISDOM OF AUG 10 ACTION
BEFORE IT BECAME KNOWN THAT LEBANON WOULD NOT ASK FOR
SANCTIONS AT ROME. FACT THAT THESE VOICES HAVE NOW
FALLEN SILENT SHOULD NOT OBSCURE FACT THAT EARLIER
QUESTIONING IN ISRAEL OF AUG 10 ACTION WAS PROFUND.
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